

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

PATRICK J. COUCHOIS, etc.,

Plaintiff/s,

v.

CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL
MINISTRIES, etc.,

Defendant/s.

Case No. SACV 09-1500-JST(RNBx)

ORDER ON JURY TRIAL

Final Pre-Trial Conference:

April 11, 2011

at 1:30 p.m.

Exhibit Conference

April 22, 2011

at 3:00 p.m.

Trial:

April 26, 2011

at 9:00 a.m.

1 **SCHEDULING:**

2 1. **In General:** The last day for hearing on any motion to join other parties or to
3 amend the pleadings shall be specified in the Scheduling Order. All unserved parties
4 shall be dismissed no later than the date set for the Final Pre-Trial Conference.

5 2. **Motions for Summary Judgment or Partial Summary Judgment:** Motions
6 for Summary Judgment or Partial Summary Judgment shall be heard no later than the last
7 day for hearing motions, as set forth in the Scheduling Order.

8 3. **Settlement Procedures:** It is the policy of the Court to encourage disposition
9 of civil litigation by settlement when such is in the best interest of the parties. The Court
10 favors any reasonable means to accomplish this goal. All settlement discussions will be
11 conducted in compliance with [Local Rule 16-15](#). Consistent with [Local Rule 16-15.2](#), the
12 Scheduling Order establishes a deadline for participation in settlement proceedings. The
13 parties must elect one of the settlement procedures outlined in [Local Rule 16-15.4](#). If the
14 parties do not timely file a Notice of Settlement Procedure Selection, the Court may order
15 the parties to participate in any of the settlement procedures set forth in the Local Rule.

16 4. **Discovery Cut-Off:** The Scheduling Order establishes a cut-off date for
17 discovery in this action. This is not the date by which discovery requests must be served;
18 it is the date by which all discovery is to be completed. The Court will not approve
19 stipulations between counsel that permit responses to be served after the cut-off date
20 except in extraordinary circumstances.

21 5. **Discovery Motions:** Any motion respecting the inadequacy of responses to
22 discovery must be filed and served not later than ten (10) days after the discovery cut-off
23 date. Whenever possible, the Court expects counsel to resolve discovery problems among
24 themselves in a courteous, reasonable, and professional manner. The Court expects that
25 counsel will strictly adhere to the Civility and Professional Guidelines adopted by the
26 United States District Court for the Central District of California.

1 6. **Expert Discovery**: The above discovery cut-off date includes expert
2 discovery, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

3 **FINAL PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE**:

4 This case has been placed on calendar for a Final Pre-Trial Conference pursuant to
5 Fed. R. Civ. P. 16. Strict compliance with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil
6 Procedure and the Local Rules is mandatory. Counsel will lodge carefully prepared
7 Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law (which may also serve as the trial briefs) and
8 a Final Pre-Trial Conference Order in accordance with the provisions of [Local Rules 16-4](#)
9 [and 16-7](#). The Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law will be served no later than
10 twenty-one (21) calendar days before the Pre-Trial Conference. The Final Pre-Trial
11 Conference Order will be lodged no later than eleven (11) calendar days before the
12 Pre-Trial Conference. The form of the Final Pre-Trial Conference Order will be in
13 conformity with the form set forth in [Appendix A](#) to the Local Rules.

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15 **PREPARATION FOR TRIAL AND SCHEDULING EXHIBIT CONFERENCE**
16 **FRIDAY BEFORE TRIAL**

17 The Court ORDERS that all counsel comply with the following in their
18 preparation for trial:

19 1. **Motions In Limine**: All motions *in limine* will be heard at the Pre-Trial
20 Conference. The purpose of these motions is to alert the Court to significant evidentiary
21 issues that can be addressed and resolved prior to trial. All motions *in limine* must be
22 filed and served in compliance with [Local Rule 6-1](#). Opposition papers must be filed and
23 served in compliance with [Local Rule 7-9](#). Reply papers must be filed and served in
24 compliance with [Local Rule 7-10](#).

25 2. **Statement of the Case (Jury Trials)**: Counsel will prepare a joint statement of
26 the case which will be read by the Court to the prospective panel of jurors prior to the
27 commencement of voir dire. The statement should not be more than two or three
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1 paragraphs. The statement will be filed with the Court five (5) court days before the
2 Pre-Trial Conference.

3 3. **Voir Dire (Jury Trials)**: At least four (4) court days before the Pre-Trial
4 Conference, each counsel shall file with the Court any special questions requested to be
5 put to prospective jurors on voir dire.

6 4. **Witness Lists**: A witness list will be prepared in compliance with [Local Rule](#)
7 [16-5](#). The witness list will be filed no later than five (5) court days prior to the Pre-Trial
8 Conference. Counsel will submit the names of the witnesses in the order that they are
9 expected to testify, and provide, to the extent possible, an accurate estimate of the time
10 needed for each witness for direct, cross, redirect and re-cross. Counsel will also provide
11 a brief summary of each witness' testimony. If more than one witness is offered on the
12 same subject, the summary should be sufficiently detailed to allow the Court to determine
13 if the testimony is cumulative.

14 5. **Jury Instructions (Jury Trials)**: In a jury trial, jury instructions are to be filed
15 no later than five (5) court days prior to the Pre-Trial Conference. The parties must
16 submit joint jury instructions. The parties will meet and confer sufficiently in advance of
17 the required submission date, in order to prepare the joint jury instructions. The
18 instructions should be submitted in the order in which the parties wish to have the
19 instructions read. This order should reflect a single organized sequence agreed to by all
20 of the parties.

21 In the event that agreement cannot be reached, counsel will submit three (3) sets of
22 instructions (with an extra set for the Court's law clerks) in the following format: (1) the
23 agreed upon instructions; (2) the instructions proposed by plaintiff and opposed by
24 defendant; and (3) the instructions proposed by defendant and opposed by plaintiff. In
25 addition, counsel must submit electronic versions (in Word format) to the Court at the
26 following email address: JST_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov. Instructions upon which
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1 agreement cannot be reached should reflect the basic disagreements among the parties as
 2 to the law. For disputed instructions, a party should note its objections to a proposed
 3 instruction and its reasons for putting forth its alternative on pages placed after its own
 4 alternative instruction.

5 **6. Exhibits and Exhibit Conference:**

6 A. **Exhibit List:** A joint exhibit list will be prepared in compliance
 7 with the example below and [Local Rule 16-6](#).

JOINT EXHIBIT LIST					
Case Name:					
Case Number:					
No. of Exhibit	Description	Stip. to Authen.	Stip. to Admiss.	Date Identified	Date Admitted

13
 14 The joint exhibit list will contain the information required by F.R.Civ.P.
 15 26(a)(3)(A). The joint exhibit list will be filed no later than five (5) court days prior to
 16 the Pre-Trial Conference. In order to produce the joint exhibit list, the parties will meet
 17 and confer sufficiently in advance of the required submission date. As part of the meet
 18 and confer process, counsel will stipulate so far as is possible as to foundation, waiver of
 19 the best evidence rule, and to those exhibits which may be received into evidence at the
 20 start of trial. The exhibits to be so received will be noted on the extra copies of the
 21 exhibit lists.

22 B. **Exhibit Preparation:** All exhibits will be placed in loose leaf
 23 binders which are tabbed down the right side with exhibit numbers. The spine of the
 24 notebook is to be marked with the case name and number and the numbers of the exhibits
 25 contained therein. The notebooks are to be prepared with an original for the Clerk, which
 26 will be tagged with the appropriate exhibit tags in the upper right-hand corner of the first
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page of each exhibit, and one copy for the Court. Each notebook will contain a list of the included exhibits. The exhibits are to be numbered in accordance with [Local Rule 26-3](#).

C. **Exhibit Conference:** AN EXHIBIT CONFERENCE REQUIRING THE ATTENDANCE OF TRIAL COUNSEL WILL BE HELD AT 3:00 P.M. ON THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE SCHEDULED TRIAL DATE IN COURTROOM 10A, UNLESS THE COURT ORDERS OTHERWISE. Exhibits are to be submitted to the Courtroom Deputy Clerk at the time of the exhibit conference.

7. **Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law (Court Trials)**: For any matter requiring findings of fact and conclusions of law, counsel for each party shall lodge and serve proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law as promptly as possible in compliance with [Local Rule 52](#). In addition, counsel must submit electronic versions (in Word format) to the Court at the following email address:
JST_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov.

ATTORNEY AND PARTY CONDUCT AT TRIAL:

1. **Trial Schedule**: Unless otherwise ordered, trials will be held on Tuesdays through Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a 15-minute break during each session, and on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with two 15-minute breaks and no lunch recess.

2. Trial Conduct:

A. Opening Statements, Examining Witnesses, and Summation

1. At the end of each day, counsel presenting his or her case shall advise opposing counsel of the witnesses anticipated the following day with an estimate of the length of direct examination. Opposing counsel shall provide an estimate of the length of cross-examination. Cooperation of counsel will ensure a smooth flow of

1 witnesses. It is the responsibility of all counsel to arrange the appearance of witnesses in
2 order to avoid delay.

3 2. Opening statements, examination of witnesses, and summation
4 will be from the lectern only. Counsel must not consume time by writing out words or
5 drawing charts or diagrams. Counsel may do so in advance and explain that the item was
6 prepared earlier as ordered by the Court to save time.

7 3. The Court will honor reasonable time estimates for opening and
8 closing addresses to the jury.

9 4. In jury trials, where a party has more than one lawyer, only one
10 may conduct the direct or cross-examination of a given witness.

11 5. If a witness is on the stand when a recess is taken, it is counsel's
12 duty to have the witness back on the stand, ready to proceed, when the court session
13 resumes.

14 6. If a witness was on the stand at adjournment, it is counsel's duty
15 to have the witness adjacent to, but not on, the stand, ready to proceed when the court
16 session resumes.

17 7. It is counsel's duty to notify the Courtroom Deputy Clerk in
18 advance if any witness should be accommodated by use of the witness stand's automated
19 platform to accommodate witnesses who otherwise are unable to take the witness stand.

20 8. The Court attempts to accommodate physicians, scientists, and all
21 other professional witnesses and will, except in extraordinary circumstances, permit them
22 to testify out of sequence. Counsel must anticipate any such possibility and discuss it
23 with opposing counsel. If there is objection, confer with the Court in advance.

24 **B. Objections and General Decorum**

25 1. When objecting, counsel must rise to state the objection and state
26 only that counsel objects and the legal ground of objection. If counsel wishes to argue an
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1 objection further, counsel must ask for permission to do so; the Court may or may not
2 grant a request for conference at sidebar. The Court strongly discourages sidebars
3 because they represent an inefficient use of jury time when matters can be anticipated.

4 2. Counsel must not approach the Clerk or the witness stand without
5 specific permission. When permission is given, please return to the lectern when the
6 purpose of the permission is finished. Counsel must not engage in questioning a witness
7 at the witness stand.

8 3. Counsel must address all remarks to the Court. Counsel are not to
9 address the Clerk, the Reporter, persons in the audience, or opposing counsel. If counsel
10 wishes to speak with opposing counsel, counsel must ask permission to talk off the
11 record. Any request for the re-reading of questions or answers shall be addressed to the
12 Court.

13 4. Counsel must not make an offer of stipulation unless counsel has
14 conferred with opposing counsel and has reason to believe the stipulation will be
15 acceptable.

16 5. It is counsel's duty of the first day of trial to advise the Court of
17 any commitments that may result in counsel's absence or late arrival.

18 **C. Exhibits**

19 1. Each counsel should keep counsel's own list of exhibits and
20 should keep track when each has been admitted in evidence.

21 2. Each counsel is responsible for any exhibits that counsel secures
22 from the Clerk and, during all recesses and noontime and afternoon adjournments,
23 counsel must return all exhibits in counsel's possession to the Clerk.

24 3. An exhibit not previously marked should, at the time of its first
25 mention, be accompanied by a request that the Clerk mark it for identification. To save
26 time, counsel must show a new exhibit to opposing counsel before it is mentioned in
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1 Court.

2 4. Counsel should move exhibits into evidence as soon as
3 admissibility is established, while they are freshly in the minds of all participants. If there
4 is an objection, the motion to admit will be dealt with at the next available recess. In jury
5 trials, no exhibit shall be read or displayed to the jury until admitted.

6 5. Absent unusual circumstances, counsel must not ask witnesses to
7 draw charts or diagrams nor ask the Court's permission for a witness to do so. If counsel
8 wishes to question a witness in connection with graphic aids, the material must be fully
9 prepared before the court session starts.

10 **D. Depositions:**

11 1. All depositions that will be used in the trial, either as evidence or
12 for impeachment, must be signed and lodged with the Clerk on the first day of trial or
13 such earlier date as the Court may order. For any deposition in which counsel is
14 interested, counsel should check with the Clerk to confirm that the Clerk has the
15 transcript and that the transcript is properly signed.

16 2. In using depositions of an adverse party for impeachment,
17 counsel shall first announce both the beginning and ending page and line references of the
18 passage desired to be read, and allow opposing counsel an opportunity to state any
19 objection. Counsel shall use either of the following procedures:

20 3. If counsel wishes to read the questions and answers as alleged
21 impeachment and ask the witness no further questions on that subject, counsel may
22 merely read the relevant portions of the deposition into the record.

23 4. If counsel wishes to ask the witness further questions on the
24 subject matter, the deposition is placed in front of the witness and the witness is told to
25 read silently the pages and lines involved. Then counsel may either ask the witness
26 further questions on the matter and thereafter read the quotations or read the quotations
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1 and thereafter ask further questions. Counsel should have an extra copy of the deposition
2 for this purpose.

3 5. Where a witness is absent and the witness' testimony is offered
4 by deposition, please observe the following procedure. A reader should occupy the
5 witness chair and read the testimony of the witness while the examining lawyer asks the
6 questions.

7 **E. Advance Notice of Evidentiary or Difficult Questions**

8 If counsel has reason to anticipate that a difficult question of law or
9 evidence will raise legal argument, requiring research and/or briefing, counsel must give
10 the Court advance notice. Counsel are directed to notify the Clerk at the day's
11 adjournment if an unexpected legal issue arises that could not have been foreseen and
12 addressed by a motion *in limine* (see Fed. R. Evid. 103). To the maximum extent possible
13 such matters shall be taken outside normal trial hours (*e.g.*, recess, before or after the trial
14 day).

15 The Clerk is ordered to serve a copy of this Order on counsel/parties in this
16 action.

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18 IT IS SO ORDERED.

19 DATED: October 14, 2010

20 **JOSEPHINE STATON TUCKER**
21 **JOSEPHINE STATON TUCKER**
22 United States District Judge
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